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1831
THE

ACT OF INCORPORATION,

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

OF THE

AMERICAN INSTITUTE

OF

INSTRUCTION.



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ACT OF INCORPORATION.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED AND
THIRTYONE.

An Act to incorporate the American Institute of Instruction.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives, in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same,* That Francis Wayland, Jr, William B. Calhoun, William Sullivan, John Adams, John Park, Nathan Lord, Thomas H. Gallaudet, Andrew Yates, Theodore Frelinghuysen, Roberts Vaux, William C. Fowler, Reuben Haines, Benjamin O. Peers, Nathan Guilford, Gideon F. Thayer, Solomon P. Miles, William C. Woodbridge, Ebenezer Bailey, Abraham Andrews, Otis Everett and James G. Carter, together with their associates, be, and they hereby are made and constituted a Corporation in the City of Boston by the name of the American Institute of Instruction, with all the powers, rights, duties and liabilities usually incident to Corporations, for the purpose of promoting and improving the means of education and instruction in Morality, Science and Literature.

SECTION 2. *Be it further enacted,* That the said Corporation may appoint such officers and make such by-laws, rules and regulations, as it may see fit; provided the same be consistent with the Constitution and Laws of this Commonwealth.

SECTION 3. *Be it further enacted*, That said Corporation may hold real estate to the value of ten thousand dollars, and personal estate to the value of twenty thousand dollars, in its corporate name; and use and improve the same for the benefit of this institution, and for all lawful purposes incident to the powers hereby granted.

SECTION 4. *Be it further enacted*, That any person named in this Act may call the first meeting of the members of this Corporation by public advertisement in any newspaper printed in Boston, two weeks successively before the day of meeting.

SECTION 5. *Be it further enacted*, That this Act shall be subject to be altered, or amended, or repealed at any time, at the will of the Legislature.

In House of Representatives, March 3, 1831.

Passed to be enacted.

WM. B. CALHOUN, Speaker.

In Senate, March 4, 1831.

Passed to be enacted.

SAMUEL LATHROP, President.

March 4, 1831.—Approved,

LEVI LINCOLN.

CONSTITUTION

OF THE

AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF INSTRUCTION.

PREAMBLE.

WE, whose names are hereunto subjoined, pledging our zealous efforts to promote the cause of popular education, agree to adopt the following Constitution, and to obey the By-Laws made in conformity thereto.

ARTICLE I.....NAME AND OBJECT.

The Society shall be known by the title of the AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF INSTRUCTION. Its object shall be the diffusion of useful knowledge in regard to education.

ARTICLE II.....MEMBERS.

1. Any gentleman of good moral character, interested in the subject of Education, may become a member of this Institute, by signing this Constitution, and paying at the time of his admission, a fee of one dollar.*

*Members of the Institute may receive their certificates of membership by sending to the Treasurer the annual assessment. Gentlemen residing at a distance, who wish to join the Institute, may do so by sending to the Treasurer one dollar, and authorizing him to sign their names to the Constitution.

2. An annual assessment of one dollar, shall be laid upon each member, by neglecting to pay which, for more than one year after due notice from the Treasurer, he shall cease to be a member of the society.

3. Any gentleman, by paying at one time the sum of twenty dollars, shall become a member of the Institute for life, and be exempted from all future assessments.

4. Honorary members may be elected by the Institute, at the recommendation of two thirds of the Directors present at any stated meeting of that Board.

5. For dishonorable or immoral conduct, a member may be dismissed from the society, by a vote of two thirds of the members present, at any regular meeting.

6. Ladies, engaged in the business of instruction, shall be invited to hear the annual address, lectures, and reports of committees on subjects of Education.

ARTICLE III.....MEETINGS.

1. The annual meeting of the Institute shall be held at Boston, on the Thursday next preceding the last Wednesday in August, at such place and hour as the Board of Directors shall order.

2. Special meetings may be called by the Directors.

3. Due notice of the meetings of the society shall be given in the public journals.

ARTICLE IV.....OFFICERS.

1. The officers of the society shall be a President, Vice Presidents, a Recording Secretary, two Corresponding Secretaries, a Treasurer, three Curators, three Censors, and twelve Counsellors, who shall constitute a Board of Directors.

2. The officers shall be elected annually, in August, by ballot.

ARTICLE V.....DUTIES OF OFFICERS.

1. The President, or, in his absence, one of the Vice Presidents, or, in their absence, a President *pro tempore*, shall preside at the meetings of the Institute.

2. The Recording Secretary shall notify all meetings of the society, and of the Board of Directors; and he shall keep a record of their transactions.

3. The Corresponding Secretaries, subject to the order of the Board of Directors, shall be the organs of communication with other societies, and with individuals.

4. The Treasurer shall collect and receive all moneys of the Institute, and shall render an accurate statement of all his receipts and payments, annually, and whenever called upon by the Board of Directors; to whom he shall give such bonds for the faithful performance of his duty, as they shall require. He shall make no payment except by their order.

5. To the Board of Directors shall be entrusted the general interests of the society, with authority to

devise and carry into execution such measures as may promote its objects. It shall be their duty to appoint some suitable person to deliver an address before the Institute, at their annual meeting; to select competent persons to serve on Standing Committees, or to deliver lectures, on such subjects relating to education as they may deem expedient and useful; to collect such facts, as may promote the general objects of the society; and to provide convenient accommodations for the meetings. They shall, at the annual meeting, exhibit their records, and report to the Institute. They shall have power to fill all vacancies in their Board, from members of the society, and make By-Laws for its government.

6. It shall be the particular duty of the Curators to select books, and to take charge of the library of the Institute.

7. The Censors shall have authority to procure for publication the annual address and lectures. It shall be their duty to examine the annual reports of the Standing Committees, and all other communications made to the society; and to publish such of them, as, in their estimation, may tend to throw light on the subject of education, and aid the faithful instructor in the discharge of his duty.

8. It shall be the duty of the President, the Vice Presidents, and Counsellors, severally, to recommend to the consideration of the Board of Directors such subjects of inquiry, as, in their opinion, may best advance the great objects of the Institute.

9. Stated meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held at Boston on the first Wednesday in January ; on the last Wednesday in May ; and on the day next preceding that of the annual meeting of the Institute in August.

ARTICLE VI.....BY-LAWS AND AMENDMENTS.

1. By-Laws, not repugnant to this Constitution, may be adopted at any regular meeting.

2. This Constitution may be altered or amended, by a vote of two thirds of the members present at the annual meeting, provided two thirds of the Directors, present at a stated meeting, shall agree to recommend the proposed alteration or amendment.

BY-LAWS.

I. At all meetings of the Board of Directors, seven members shall be necessary to constitute a quorum to do business.

II. The Board of Directors shall annually choose a Committee of Finance, whose duty it shall be to audit the accounts of the Treasurer, and, under the control of the Board of Directors, to draw orders on the Treasurer for the payment of charges against the Institute.

III. It shall be the duty of the Recording Secretary, on application of any two Directors, to call special meetings of the Board.

OFFICERS OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF
INSTRUCTION FOR THE YEAR 1831—1832.

PRESIDENT.

FRANCIS WAYLAND, President of Brown
University, Providence, R. I.

VICE PRESIDENTS.

Wm. B. Calhoun, Springfield, Mass.
Wm. Sullivan, Boston, “
John Adams, Andover, “
John Park, Worcester, “
Thos. H. Gallaudet, Hartford, Ct.
Andrew Yates, Chittenango, N. Y.
Roberts Vaux, Philadelphia, Pa.
Wm. C. Fowler, Professor in Middlebury
College, Middlebury, Vt.
Reuben Haines, Germantown, Pa.
Benj. B. Wisner, Boston, Mass.
Thos. S. Grimké, Charleston, S. C.
John Griscom, New York, N. Y.
Timothy Flint, Cincinnati, Ohio.
Philip Lindsley, President of the University
of Tennessee, Nashville, Tenn.
Alva Woods, President of the University
of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, Ala.
Benjamin Abbot, Exeter, N. H.
William Wirt, Baltimore, Md.

RECORDING SECRETARY.

Gideon F. Thayer, Boston, Mass.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARIES.

Solomon P. Miles, Boston, Mass.
Wm. C. Woodbridge, Hartford Ct.

TREASURER.

Benj. D. Emerson, Boston, Mass.

CURATORS.

Abraham Andrews, Boston, Mass.
Frederick Emerson, “ “
Cornelius Walker, “ “

CENSORS.

Ebenezer Bailey, Boston, Mass.
Jacob Abbot, “ “
C. C. Felton, Cambridge, “

COUNSELLORS.

Wm. J. Adams, New York, N. Y.
James G. Carter, Lancaster, Mass.
William Russell, Germantown, Pa.
Joseph Emerson, Weathersfield, Ct.
William Forrest, New York, N. Y.
Walter R. Johnson, Philadelphia, Pa.
John Kingsbury, Providence, R. I.
Samuel P. Newman, Professor of Bowdoin
College, Brunswick, Me.
Henry K. Oliver, Salem, Mass.
Asa Rand, Boston, Mass.
O. A. Shaw, Richmond, Va.
Elipha White, John's Island, S. C.

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